AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 12

Please amend the Specification on page 12 beginning at line 23as follows:

As described above, when noise is removed from image data by the frequency characteristic conversion means 4a to 4f, the filter characteristics are determined according to the frequency bands of the noise components to be removed. The case in which noise components at high frequencies close to the pixel frequency of the image data are removed by the frequency characteristic conversion means 4a to ~~4b~~ 4f will now be described. In this case, the frequency characteristic conversion means 4a to 4f may comprise a low-pass filter that blocks or attenuates high-frequency components in the image data and passes low frequency components. Specifically, they should comprise a low-pass filter that blocks or attenuates frequency components in the region above approximately two ninths (1/4.5) of the pixel frequency, that is, above one ninth of the clock frequency of the pixel data. A simple example is a low-pass filter that calculates the simple average value of a plurality of continuous pixels. In this case, the filter characteristics are determined by the number of pixels included in the simple average value.

Page 14

Please amend the Specification on page 14 beginning at line 16 as follows:

FIG. 4 is a block diagram showing the internal structure of the combining means 5. As shown in FIG. 4, the combining means 5 comprises addition means 10a to 10f. Addition means

10a adds converted hue region data fh1r, fh1y, fh1m to calculate converted chromatic component data r1; addition means 10b adds converted hue region data fh1g, fh1y, fh1c to calculate converted chromatic component data g1; addition means 10c adds converted hue region data fh1b, fh1c, fh1m to calculate converted chromatic component data b1; addition means 10d adds the minimum value α to converted chromatic component data r1 to calculate second color data Ro; addition means 10e adds the minimum value α to converted chromatic component data g1 to calculate second color data Go; addition means ~~10e~~ 10f adds the minimum value α to converted chromatic component data b1 to calculate second color data Bo.

Page 24

Please amend the Specification on page 24 beginning at line 4 as follows:

FIG. 16 shows the relationships between the value of identifying code S1, and the maximum and minimum values β, α of the first color data Ri, Gi, Bi. ~~and hue data assuming a value of zero.~~ As shown in FIG. 16, the identifying codes S1 of 0 to 12 identify different combinations of the maximum and minimum values β, α of data Ri, Gi, Bi. These codes identify hue information in the first color data according to the relationship between the maximum and minimum values β, α. For example, when the maximum value β is Ri and the minimum value α is both Gi and Bi (Gi = Bi), the first color data represent a red hue.

Page 27

Please amend the Specification on page 27 beginning at line and continuing on page 28as follows:

The converted hue region data fh1r, fh1g, fh1b, fh1c, fh1m, fh1y output from the frequency characteristic conversion means 4a to 4f are input to the matrix calculation means 18 together with the minimum value α. The calculation means 18 performs a matrix calculation on the converted hue region data and the minimum value α, using matrix coefficients U(Fij) output by the coefficient generating means ~~7~~ 17, to calculate color corrections R1, G1, B1.

Page 39

Please amend the Specification on page 39 beginning at line 22 as follows:

In FIG. 31, arrows a and b indicate the values of color data Go at pixel positions 12 and 13; arrows c and d indicate the values of color data Ro at pixel positions 26 and 27. The Go color data have values of 173 at pixel position 12 (Ro = 54, ~~Go~~ Bo = 54) and 202 at pixel position 13 (Ro = 68, ~~Go~~ Bo = 54). The Ro color data have values of 177 at pixel position 26 (Go = 40, Bo = 38) and 204 at pixel position 27 (Go = 46, Bo = 60).